

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD, LY

SUBJECT: CHADIAN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO EDITOR

1. LETTER TO EDITOR FROM CHADIAN AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA
PRINTED IN APRIL 4 WASHINGTON POST. CAPTIONED "PRESENCE
OF FRENCH TROOPS IN CHAD DENIED," TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: YOUR MARCH 25 ARTICLE "FRENCH TROOPS REPORTED
AIDING CHAD GOVERNMENT" IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAS NOT SENT TROOPS INTO CHAD
UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS. IN FACT, IT HAS SENT NO TROOPS
OR ADVISERS TO ASSIST THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD IN ANY MILITARY
OPERATION.

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YOU WILL RECALL THAT ON FEB. 20, A CEASE-FIRE WAS ARRANGED
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD AND THE WARRING FACTIONS IN
THE NORTH, THE FROLINAT.

THAT WAS ARRANGED BY PRESIDENT GAFAR EL NIMEIRY OF SUDAN,
PRESIDENT SEYNIE KOUNTCHE OF NIGER AND COL. MOUAMAR EL
QUADDAFI, PRESIDENT OF LYBIA, AND THE AGREEMENT IS HIGHLY

RESPECTED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

AT THIS MOMENT, THESE SAME GOVERNMENTS, WHICH ARE VERY CLOSE BROTHERS AND SHARE COMMON BORDERS WITH CHAD, ARE TRYING TO REACH A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL OF CHAD AND FROLINAT.

ADVERSE PUBLICITY THAT IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION WILL SURELY CAST DOUBT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD'S SINCERITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE.

2. WE ASSUME TOURA GABA'S DENIAL OF FRENCH TROOP PRESENCE REFLECTS EITHER HE UNINFORMED OR IT IS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO KEEP ISSUE OF ESSENTIAL FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM ARISING AS FOCAL POINT OF RECONCILIATION DEBATE AS LIBYAN-NIGERIEN MILITARY COMMITTEE EMBARKS ON EFFORT TO "ESTABLISH WHETHER FOREIGN TROOPS OR BASES ARE ESTABLISHED IN CHAD." DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY COMMENT. VANCE

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